

## [Jim Howard]

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[FOLKSTUFF RANGE LORE?]

Range-lore

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Nellie B. Cox

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RANGELORE

Having lived in the Concho Country in pioneer days, Jim Howard relates the following story:

"The people who pioneered the West didn't have brick houses to live in as the younger generation has. Their houses were built out of logs. These logs had the bark peeled off and were cut flat on one side. A trench was dug and these were stood up close together. This made comfortable walls, and with a roof made of buffalo hides, made a fine house; later though, we had adobe houses.

"There weren't any fences, but we had corrals built about ten-rails high. My greatest ambition was to have an opportunity to "go up the trail" but I never got to go. C12 - 2/11/41  
- Texas

"There were lots of buffaloes here then. Traders made San Angelo their headquarters when they came to this part of the country to make deals for buffalo hides. I 2 remember

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in the year 1873, we used to go out anywhere around here and kill buffaloes just for their tongues; sometimes we skinned them, but not always.

“The early settlers had to deal with the Indians, too. I've seen lots of them, but never took a shot at one. Some of them were friendly and some were just the opposite. Old man Wiley Williams was always hunting Indians. One morning he walked out to his well and saw two Indians standing on a little hill near his house. Old Wiley crawled back to the house, got his gun, took roundance on the Indians and killed one. The other one ran like the devil; I saw him. We supposed they were slipping around trying to steal some of the horses.” 1 Page one

Range-lore

Nellie B. Cox

Continuity

RANGE-LORE

Jim Howard has lived in what he calls the San Saba Country for many years, but in about 1873, he lived in the country around Ben Ficklin and the Conchos. He says, “I remember when they used to go out anywhere around here and kill buffaloes just for their tongues; sometimes they were skinned, but not always. We didn't have to go far to find them.

“I've seen lots of Indians but never shot at one. Old man Wiley Williams, he was always hunting Indians. One morning he walked out to his well and saw two Indians standing on a little hill near his house. Old Wiley crawled back to the house, got his gun, took roundance on the Indians and killed one. The other one ran like the devil; I saw him.

“There weren't no fences, just corrals built about ten rails high. I'd rather work cattle than do any kind 2 of work. Old man John McDaniel had a ranch hand called

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“Craghead” (nickname), I don't know what for. He could ride anything or rope anything. He got to go up the trail on big drives, but I never went on none.

“The houses was built out of logs with the bark peeled off and cut flat on one side. A trench was dug and these was stood up close together. This made comfortable walls and with a roof made of buffalo hides made a fine house; later though, we had adobe houses.”

Mr. Howard's keen eyes had a far away look while talking of early days. To him they were the best days that could ever have been. He has an old map of Texas showing all the water holes from the Conchos to New Mexico and giving their names and locations. On the map-1873-the names of Bismarck and Tower Hill are given in the part of the country that was later organized into Tom Green County. His favorite book is “Indian Depredations in Texas”, which tells the adventures of “Big Foot” Wallace.